THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) As informed by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) a proposal has been made by the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (SAC-PM) for setting up an autonomous "National Science and Engineering Research Foundation (NSERF)". The proposal is under consideration of DST.

Corruption in educational institutes

800. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent raid by income tax department in various educational institutes particularly in Maharashtra in which they found large number of unaccounted fixed deposit receipts, cash deposits and other incriminating documents after mounting complaints by people about blatant corruption during the admission process;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken against erring educational institutes;

(c) whether Government are bringing any stringent laws for free and fair admission in the engineering and technical institutes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when, it will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) According to the information furnished by the office or Director General of Income Tax (Investigation), Pune, surveys were conducted on certain educational institutions at Pune, Kolhapur, Thane, Mumbai, Nagpur, Latur, Jaisinghpur and Nepani including search actions on officers and some trustees of the institutions. According to the said office, cash seizure of about Rs. 6.00 crores was effected and certain documents showing receipts of donations/capitation fee were found and the assessment proceedings are underway. Details of institutions proceeded against are awaited from the Income Tax authorities.

In order to ensure free and fair admissions in Engineering and Technical Institutes, States are empowered to make appropriate laws under the provisions of Article 15 (5) of the Constitution.